

**Minutes**  
North Dakota Organic Advisory Board  
ND Farmers Union Headquarters  
December 10, 2008

Chairman Brad Brummond called the meeting to order.

Roll Call was taken:

**Advisory Board members present:** Brad Brummond, Scott Sinner, Ernie Hoffert, Kevin Kvamme, Grayson Hoberg, Britt Jacobson, Lowell Kaul, Dennis Schill, Anne Ongstad, Chuck Gustafson, Betsy Perkins, Kayla Pulvermacher, Christina Dockter, and Chuck Fleming representing Commissioner Roger Johnson

**Advisory Board members absent:** David Podoll, Keith Kadrmas,

**Others present:** Marlene Ells, Janet Jacobson (via phone)

**Lowell Kaul moved that the following amendments be made to the September 3, 2008 minutes and when so amended be approved.**

*On page 1 about 2/3 down from the top of the page an apostrophe be placed in the word summers between the r and the s; and*

*On page 2 under the Marketing/Producer/Processing Committee report the second sentence should be amended to read "A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.*

**The motion was seconded by Grayson Hoberg. Motion carried.**

The financial report was presented by Chuck Fleming. The report showed expenditures of \$17,917.54 from July 1, 2007 through November 30, 2008. It also indicated additional committed expenses of \$4,625.00 for total obligations of \$22,542.54. A copy of the report is attached.

**Britt Jacobson moved that the financial report be approved. Seconded by Chuck Gustafson Motion carried.**

## **Reports**

### **Agriculture Commissioner's Report**

Chuck Fleming gave Commissioner Johnson's report. He outlined the activities that have taken place in the Department of Agriculture the past three months.

### **Chairman Brummond's Report**

Chairman Brummond reported it has been a very busy winter thus far. There is a lot of concern about the global situation. He talked about the upcoming legislative session and stated what happened there would impact the future of Advisory Board activities.

Brad Brummond gave a report of the Professional Development Committee. Kevin Kvamme gave a report of the Marketing/Producer/Processing Committee. Anne Ongstad gave a report of the Livestock Committee. Britt Jacobson gave a report of the Consumer and Retail Education Committee. There was no Weed Committee report.

### **Web site update**

Janet Jacobson joined the meeting by conference call. The Board reviewed the corrections and additions that they felt were needed to the web site. Janet and Chuck will work to incorporate the changes.

### **2009 Legislative Program- Issues and Strategy**

The Board discussed the upcoming legislative session. The consensus of the Board was that without a strong advocate by a legislator, it would be difficult to get continued funding for the program. Scott Sinner volunteered to talk to a legislator to help find potential advocates. Chuck Fleming was asked to put together a work plan for a potential position in the ND Agriculture Department should a strong advocate for organics from within the Legislature be found.

Janet Jacobson reported that she had prepared an outline for a 2008 Status of Organic Agriculture in North Dakota report. The report was included in the meeting packet of information. She will work on getting this drafted in the next 30 days. Chairman Brummond asked that all Board members submit a list of accomplishments of the Board during the past two years so that could be included in the report. It was decided that a brochure or handout could be made to summarize the report. It might be necessary to have a supplemental Status Report done when more figures are available from the federal government.

Discussion took place on the proposed rules by USDA on organic pasture. It was decided that members of the Livestock Committee would send comments to Chuck Fleming and he would attempt to put together proposed comments for Commissioner Johnson and circulate them back to the Board for their review and input.

Kevin Kvamme announced that Lowell Kaul, Marlene Ells and he have volunteered to staff the booth at the KMOT Expo in Minot in January.

A discussion was held on the mapping of organic lands for commercial and non-commercial spray applicators. The task to review that issue was assigned to the Weed Committee.

It was decided to table the discussion on the Committee structure of the Board to a later meeting.

The next meeting of the Board meeting was tentatively scheduled for February 12, 2009 in Huron South Dakota in conjunction with the Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Society Annual Conference.

**Grayson Hoberg moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Scott Sinner. Motion carried.**